

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 7 and 8 are allowed. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected. Claims 2-5 are objected to.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by newly applied Kiesel et al. (U.S. patent 4,777,404) (herein 'Kiesel').

Kiesel discloses a halogen incandescent lamp (1) having a bulb (2) containing a tungsten filament (7) and current lead-ins (5, 6). Lead-ins (5, 6) are partly embedded in press seal (4), where they connect to contact pins (8, 9), which are also partly embedded, but are also partly exposed to the atmosphere. Contact pins (8, 9) are made entirely of an iron-nickel-chromium alloy.

In contrast, Applicant's claim 1 calls for at least those portions of the current conductors which are in contact with the atmosphere to be provided with means for protection against oxidation.

The portions of Kiesel's current conductors which are in contact with the atmosphere are contact pins (8, 9), which contact pins (8, 9) are made entirely of an iron-nickel-chromium alloy. These contact pins (8, 9) are not provided with any means for protection against oxidation.

Thus, Kiesel fails to anticipate claim 1, and the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 6

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly applied Hardies (US patent 4,015,165) in view of Kiesel.

Hardies discloses an electric lamp with molybdenum contact pins (7) surrounded by non-corrosive metal sleeves (8), made for example, of nickel, platinum, gold, chromium, iridium, ruthenium, nickel-plated iron, chromium-plated iron, electroplated iron, with nickel, nickel-plated metals, nickel alloys and nickel-plated alloys being preferred. See col. 1, lines 55-60.

Hardies does not teach or suggest that the sleeves should be made of chromium alloys, such as the chromium-manganese, chromium-cobalt, chromium-iron, and chromium-boron alloys specifically called for by claim 1. In fact, the teaching that nickel and nickel alloys are preferred would lead the skilled artisan away from the chromium alloys claimed by Applicant.

The Examiner relies on Kiesel's teaching of iron-nickel-chromium alloy contact pins to show that it would have been obvious to use iron-nickel-chromium alloy sleeves in Hardies' lamp.

However, Kiesel is using the iron-nickel-chromium alloys as contact pins, not as sleeves for contact pins. The skilled artisan would not assume that material for contact pins would necessarily be suitable for use as sleeves for contact pins.

Moreover, Hardies teaches that nickel-based materials are preferred for economic reasons, leading further away from Applicant's claimed invention.

With regard to claim 6, Hardies teaches that the coating of molybdenum current conductors with an oxidation-resistant material has several major disadvantages. See the discussion at col. 1, lines 23-46. Thus, Hardies leads the skilled artisan away from the use of coatings on molybdenum current conductors.

As already stated, Kiesel is silent regarding any need for additional corrosion-protection means of any kind, and thus

does not suggest the use of any such means, including a coating.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the combination of Hardies in view of Kiesel, and the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

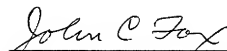
Claims 2-5

Claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the above arguments with respect to claims 1 and 6, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 6 are patentable, and therefore dependent claims 2-5 are patentable in their present form.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and objections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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